

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02255 091850Z

50

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /133 W

----- 033771

R 091750Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2311

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT NORVA

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2255

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJ: JULY 3 BY-ELECTIONS II

REF: KINGSTON 2215

1. SUMMARY: FINAL VOTE COUNT CERTIFIED. OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS VOTE A LOSS OF CONFIDENCE. TWO CABINET MINISTERS APPOINTED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CERTIFIED RETURNS FOR THE JULY 3, BY-ELECTION, EXCLUDING REJECTED BALLOTS. EAST KINGSTON: MATALON (PNP) 4185 (74 PERCENT); WAITE (JLP) -1455 (26 PERCENT); DENNIS (IND)

13. NORTHEAST ST. ANN: HAMILTON (PNP) - 5778 (66 PERCENT); CHARLES (JLP) - 3022 (34 PER CENT).

3. IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THE DAY AFTER THE ELECTION OPPOSITION LEADER HUGH SHEARER MADE A FEEBLE ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS INDICATED A DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE NOTED THAT IN EACH CONSTITUENCY, THE PNP MARGIN
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OF VICTORY HAD BEEN REDUCED CONSIDERABLY, BUT FAILED TO COMMENT

ON THE EFFECT OF A REDUCED VOTER TURNOUT AND SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR PERCENTAGE GARNERED BY THE PNP CANDIDATES IN 1967 AND 1973. SHEARER ALSO CRITICIZED PNP ELECTION TACTICS, PARTICULARLY THE USE OF CABINET MINISTERS AND OTHER NATIONAL FIGURES IN SUPPORT OF ITS CANDIDATES. HIS EFFORT WAS FEEBLE AT BEST AND SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE ADMITTED AS MUCH.

4. IN CEREMONIES JULY 5, THE NEWLY-ELECTED MP ELI MATALON WAS SWORN IN AS THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PROMINENT ATTORNEY VIVIAN BLAKE AS A SENATOR AND MINISTER OF STATE, SUCCEEDING TO THE POSITIONS VACATED BY MATALON LAST MONTH. THE APPOINTMENT OF BLAKE TO THE SENATE AND THE CABINET BRINGS TO AN END A MINI CABINET CRISIS IN WHICH THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, HUGH SHEARER, HAD CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH A BREACH OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH REQUIRES THAT THE CABINET INCLUDE TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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